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Metropolitan Commission of Sewers.

MITRE TAVERN, LOWER TOOTING, SURREY,
Friday, 19th January, 1849.

Special Committee on view. AT a Meeting of the Committee appointed by the Court on the 16th day of this month, for the purpose of viewing the dams and encroachments in the public waterway at Lower Tooting, as reported upon by Mr LOVICK, and to order them to be prostrated, if the Committee should see fit;—

PRESENT:—ROBERT HUTTON, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

CAPTAIN DAWSON.	CUTHBERT W. JOHNSON, ESQ.
CAPTAIN VETCH.	THOS. HAWES, ESQ.

The Report of Mr LOVICK to the General Board of Health, dated the 6th day of this month (which was read to the Court of Sewers on the 16th day of this month), was read.

The Committee was attended by Mr Raimondi on behalf of the Trustees and Managers of the Holborn Charity Estate, with reference to certain Almshouses belonging to the Parish of St Clement Danes, now in course of erection in Garrett Lane, on a site seriously affected by the bad drainage of the neighbourhood. The Committee were also attended by Mr Hicks, the builder of these Almshouses, an old inhabitant of Tooting.

The Committee commenced their view of the drainage of Lower Tooting at the upper end of the village, by inspecting a stream which crosses the Mitcham and Streatham Road, and falls into the Wandle at Merton Mill.

Leaving this stream, the Committee returned to Tooting Church, and passed along a wide waterway, partly supplied from the overflow of a public Artesian well, passing at the back of the houses on the eastern side of the High Street,

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which, though not at present in a foul condition, was reported to be a source of complaint during summer.

The Committee found that along a considerable portion of the High Street a barrel-drain had been constructed, which drains the road and some of the houses, and after passing through a cesspool in the high road, runs under Garrett Lane, by the side of Mr Drouet's establishment.

To this description of the drainage to the southward of the London and Merton Road the Committee will merely add, that, though the drainage is far from complete, there is no urgent cause for complaint. The overflow from the south side of the London Road is sufficient, in the narrow channel through which it passes, to keep that channel clear from offensive accumulations; but, on the northern side of the London Road, the ditches, through which the stream passes, are of such large dimensions and so uneven, that the stream is quite inadequate to keep them clean. At this point the sewage of Lower Tooting assumes the character of a decided nuisance, which it retains throughout the remainder of its course.

Mr Hicks informed the Committee that, about twenty-six years ago, the drainage, which used to continue its course along the side of Garrett Lane, was diverted in an easterly direction, in order to combine with the Upper Tooting drainage; and that a reservoir of very considerable dimensions was thus formed for the reception of these two lines of drainage, for the purpose of irrigation. At the end of this reservoir is the dam or obstruction forming the special point of reference by the Court.

After a minute and careful inspection of the locality generally, the Committee have come to the conclusion, that it would be inexpedient at present to remove the penstocks which dam up the reservoir; because, the letting off the water, by exposing the sullage and fœtid matter more directly to the atmosphere, would rather increase than diminish the evil complained of, unless accompanied by other drainage measures of considerable extent, which the Committee hope to see accomplished ere long. The Committee followed the course of drainage from the dam and penstock to the point at which this foul stream finds its way to Garrett Lane, near to the Almshouses of St Clement Danes, the drain having in its course received the addition of the sullage water of the County Lunatic Asylum.

As a merely temporary measure, the Committee would suggest that a new channel of uniform inclination and moderate dimension be made, in the best and most economical line that the circumstances permit, from the point A on the north side of the London Road, where the present drainage commences to be very objectionable, to the point B at or near the southern end of the reservoir. They would further suggest that the barrel-drain should be continued in a similar manner from its present point of discharge in Garrett Lane across the angle of the adjoining field, as marked upon the plan at C. These works being accomplished, the whole of the existing filthy ditches in this locality may be filled up, and Mr Drouet should be required to carry all his internal drains into the barrel-drain in Garrett Lane.

PLAN

TO ACCOMPANY

REPORT ON THE DRAINAGE

OF

LOWER TOOTING,

1849.

The Committee have ascertained, by means of levels which they have caused to be taken, that there is a fall of 40 feet between the London and Merton Road at Lower Tooting, and Trinity high-water mark of the River Thames at Wandsworth. There is, therefore, ample scope for permanent and thorough improvement, and they have directed the levels to be continued through to the line of water-shed at Carshalton; but so comprehensive a system, which would necessitate a large outlay, must probably be deferred until the completion of the Ordnance Survey.

With regard to the highly-offensive reservoir receiving the sullage from the County Lunatic Asylum, and the open drain proceeding from it, so much complained of by the Trustees and Managers of the Holborn Charity Estate, the Committee were informed that some time ago the Visiting Justices offered to contribute the sum of 100*l.*; and Mr Raimondi, on the part of the St Clement Danes Almshouses, informed the Committee that the Trustees and Managers of the Charity were willing to contribute liberally to a perfect system of drainage, which they hope to see speedily carried into effect. They were also informed that the Parish of St George Southwark is about to erect a Workhouse close adjoining to the Almshouses.

ADJOURNED.

(Signed) R. HUTTON, CHAIRMAN.
C. W. JOHNSON.
T. HAWES.
ROB. K. DAWSON.

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